IB 03/05023

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 H01M2/16 H01M H01M2/18 H01M10/28 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, PAJ, INSPEC, COMPENDEX C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN 1 - 17vol. 1996, no. 01, 31 January 1996 (1996-01-31) & JP 07 245091 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD), 19 September 1995 (1995-09-19) abstract X PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN 1-17 vol. 007, no. 178 (E-191) 6 August 1983 (1983-08-06) & JP 58 082465 A (MATSUSHITA DENKI SANGYO KK), 18 May 1983 (1983-05-18) abstract X US 6 270 833 B1 (YAMASHITA KATSUHIRO ET 1-17 AL) 7 August 2001 (2001-08-07) cited in the application column 3, line 45 - column 4, line 20 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 18 June 2004 29/06/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized-officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Boussard, N Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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